

is quite certain that none of these children acting singly would have felt able to express their hostility, whether annoyance with adult interference or dislike of other children, so openly and unreservedly as they do in some of these group episodes. This has some application even to many of the incidents listed under *Individual Hostility*.

Even when the group was not acting as a whole, the presence of other familiar children dearly brought a stout heart to many an angry child. All children (of, say, four years or more) will go further in open expressions of hostility when egged on " by the words or even the mere presence of their fellows. And there are many children who would never dare to express open hostility to an older or bigger child or to an adult, save when other children are about and perhaps joining in.

^Thus, whilst group feeling in little children is evanescent, it may be warm and vivid whilst it lasts; and it may reach levels of dramatic intensity which at any rate very many of the individual members of the group would rarely if ever attain by themselves. (In this respect, the behaviour of young children is but another illustration of the familiar facts of " crowd psychology ".))

• (3) I have already drawn attention to the device common among these little children of soliciting the favour of one by evincing or by trying to incite hostility to another. This, as has been seen, occurs as a feature of individual hostility, and of rivalry among three children. It is in fact one of the essential mechanisms by which the child begins to pass out of his egocentric attitudes into true social feeling. It gives us a fundamental key to the beginnings of group relations. ^

Through the operation of this mechanism, even two persons may be welded into a primitive group. When, of three

individuals, one succeeds in getting another to join with him in antagonism to the third, the relation between the two joined together in common emotion is quite different from their direct mutual relation as two separate individuals.

^cA sense of *togetherness* is born between them, fostered and heightened by the enmity to the third. > *We* are together against him, the outsider.

The mechanism is clearer to our eyes when it operates with more than three persons, when we have what would ordinarily and descriptively be called a "group" of several children, playing together and showing pleasure in each